

Ships—Ships—Ships

Shipping Board Faces Biggest Problem World Has Ever Known in Construction of Carriers

By Theodore M. Knappen

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21.—After the President had put an end to the Shipping Board quarry by the heroic methods of putting the rollers under the two chief quarrelers and had filled their places and sympathetic vacancies with new men the personnel of the board charged with a task so stupendous that it is stupefying to contemplate became as follows:

Edward N. Hurley, Chicago, former chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, successful manufacturer and man of large affairs.

Vice-chairman, F. B. Stevens, of New Hampshire, lawyer.

John H. Donald, of New York, experienced as shipper, shipbuilder and merchant.

Bainbridge Colby, New York, successful lawyer.

Charles R. Page, San Francisco, marine insurance expert.

Rear Admiral W. L. Capps, general manager of the Emergency Fleet Corporation.

When the original board was authorized to expend \$50,000,000 people gasped. That was in the old days of little things before the Great War had introduced new standards of size. The present board approves \$80,000,000 worth of contracts in a day—and doesn't even tell the public about it until it gets "good and ready"—and the public doesn't seem to mind.

We must go back to those old days, however, to get an understanding of the gigantic task these six men have been set to accomplish. Before the war a merchant steamship fleet of twenty-five vessels commanded respect, and the manager of such a fleet was voted a rightful captain of industry.

Must Build Huge Tonnage

These six men, picked up at random, and to some extent for partisan political reasons, are called upon to build or acquire 1,756 ships of 11,700,000 tons.

Before the war a steamship company that operated 400,000 tons was the supreme expression of bigness in the world of ships.

The Shipping Board will ultimately be called upon to operate, directly or indirectly, 2,214 ships of a tonnage that will ultimately surpass 14,500,000 tons.

Back in 1915 all the shipyards of America turned out less than 200,000 tons of steel ocean-going ships.

The Shipping Board is now intrusted with the building of 1,639 ships of a tonnage of 11,000,000.

Experienced shipbuilders used to take two years to build a ship in long established, completely equipped and thoroughly organized yards.

Given Three Months' Time

The men of the Shipping Board are expected to launch big ships within thirty to sixty days and complete them in ninety days.

At the end of 1916 the capacity of American shipyards for building ocean-going ships was about 500,000 tons a year.

The Shipping Board is called upon to build ships at the rate of 6,000,000 tons a year—and intends to do it. This is more than six times as much shipping as the United Kingdom completed in its record year, and is about twice the former output of the whole world. It represents a fleet considerably larger than the great merchant fleet of Germany before the war, four times the pre-war American ocean merchant fleet and about one-third of all the tonnage under the British flag.

The present programme of the board contemplates the expenditure of \$1,989,000,000, and Congress has authorized that expenditure and has actually appropriated on that account \$1,000,000,000.

Now, to this overpowering building task the equipping, manning and the operation of this fleet is in process of creation plus the general management of practically the whole American merchant marine of sea-going possibilities, privately owned but now requisitioned for government control, and you have a job that would seem to call for the genius of some Napoleon of manufacture and commerce.

Must Keep America in War

This is the commission that has been given to two lawyers, one manufacturer, one shipping man and one insurance man, with a naval constructor as general manager of construction and a car manufacturer as general manager of operations.

To these seven men is intrusted the critical task of getting and keeping America in the war, besides supplementing the failing transport of the Allies. If they fail, American armies will not fight in Europe. France will be without weapons and starvation will threaten Allied and neutral Europe.

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On the Screen

Jane Cowl made her screen debut at the Strand yesterday in a Goldwyn production called "The Spreading Dawn."

Miss Cowl is one of the few stars who has stepped from the stage to the screen without losing any of her charm, beauty or repose. There is nothing in her manner, her make-up or her methods to betray the fact that the celluloid medium is a new one to her.

"The Spreading Dawn" is a beautiful story, effectively told and wonderfully well acted. In the cast are Orme Caldera and Henry Stephenson, both of whom will be remembered by all who saw Miss Cowl in "Lilac Time." Basil King wrote the "Spreading Dawn" and he has managed to present an old theme in a new way.

Miss Cowl appears first as Patricia Mercer Vanderpelte, of the present time. She is an impudent old lady of seventy, who is feared by everyone. The illusion is perfect, and it seems impossible that the Mrs. Anthony Vanderpelte of 1917 and the Patricia of '61 are really the same person.

Mabel Ballin is Georgina Vanderpelte, who is the true love of her soldier lover before he leaves for France. Her great aunt absolutely forbids the marriage, telling her that if she persists in her foolishness she shall be cut off without a cent.

At this point in the picture there is something about the subtitles that rather suggest cues. One knows when Auntie Vanderpelte says "There is no such thing as love" that Georgina is going to say "Why do you say that?" and then that the elder woman will say "Listen, my children, and you shall hear."

She doesn't say just that, however; instead, she gives her niece a diary to read. The first entry is made early in the year '61, just before the war, and as her niece reads the story of her life is told on the screen.

Orme Caldera is extremely likable in the role of Anthony Vanderpelte, and the one thing in the play which was not to the liking of the spectators was his early death. Of course, it was necessary to the story that he be sacrificed, but one was much more interested in these early lovers than in George and Captain Nemo.

Florence Blythe is well cast as the trouble, and Henry Stephenson is most convincing as Le Roy.

Before the story closes Patricia reads a letter which has lain between the leaves of her diary for more than half a century, and she learns that Anthony never was unfaithful to her.

The letter was written on his deathbed and says: "You will meet me in the spreading dawn." As she reads her soul goes out to meet him, not cold, but as she was when he went away to war. The young loves meet on the hilltop where she had him goodby.

A picture which aroused considerable enthusiasm was "The Stars and Stripes in France," showing the Sammies in training on the other side. It was evident that the boys were not used to posing for motion pictures, for many of them looked straight at the eye of the camera and sent a message back to America.

The vocalists were Joseph Martel, who sang "Inter Nos" and "Magic of

Lisette and Allen Sears is the gallant

captain. The outdoor scenes are magnificient.

On the programme is an overture from "Eileen" and a showing of current events. To-day's programme will include Charlie Chaplin in "The Adventures of Carol."

Little Madge Evans is seen this week at the Park Theatre in a picture called "Adventures of Carol." The clever child actress is delightful in this picture, and the story is so good that one does not feel compelled to look at five reels of infant prodigies, which sometimes is something of a bore. There is a very good story, too, and a monkey who—or is it which?—is almost human, and two old colored persons who furnish the humor, and altogether the adventures of Carol are very entertaining adventures.

Kate Lester is excellent in the role of the grandmother who has not spoken for ten years. Clever little Rosina Haze is cast for the mother, and Ruth Card is the rest of the cast. The story is quite adequate, but unless one can recognize them from their past performances one has no means of knowing who they are.

Alice Brady in "A Maid of Belgium" will remain on the programme for another week, in addition to "The Adventures of Carol."

The Drama

The Wisconsin Players Now at the Neighborhood Playhouse

By Ralph Block

The Wisconsin Players, whose success in the West is the more precious kind of drama has been of sufficient calibre to encourage them to dare the pilgrimage to Mecca, began a brief season at the Neighborhood Playhouse, in Grand Street, Saturday night. New York has had its own native efforts to bring a greater subtlety and a more refreshing atmosphere into the theatre, but the strange delusion that the stage is a proper field for poetry and for a delicate shading in the treatment of ideas has persisted as extensively and with as equal a vigor in the West as it has in New York, despite the preponderant influence here of Greenwich Village.

The kind of playhouse which takes its name from its dimensions has taken root by the side of the film theatres and the large region that stretches away from the Atlantic coast, where foreign diplomats have made their entry into America without once stopping at Ellis Island or its vicinity.

With so prolonged a career behind them in a territory that appears, as one observer has remarked, to take its art so much more seriously than New York, it became a matter of surprise Saturday night that the Shuberts will present "Maytime," with Lester Longman in the lead, at the Shubert Theatre, will celebrate its hundredth performance on Saturday night at Justine Johnstone's Little Club.

More than 300 applications have been received for membership in the school of playwriting which the Shuberts will conduct, but it is announced that it will be impossible to accept so many.

At the testimonial benefit to Edward A. Rice, which will be held at Raymond Hitchcock's Forty-fourth Street Theatre, at Sunday night, Nat Goodwin will present his "Love Fisherwoman" and Henry E. Dixey will revive his famous scene from "Adonis."

"Dear Brutus," J. M. Barrie's new play, which was produced at Wyndham's Theatre, in London, on Wednesday night last, will be one of the early productions here of Charles Frohman.

The Washington Square Players will open at the Comedy next week with four one-act plays.

Plays and Players

In "The Land of Joy," with music by Philip Valverde, which has just finished its preliminary engagement at the National Theatre, Havana, and will open at the Park Theatre next Monday, will appear more than fifty singers and dancers who have been brought from Spain.

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48TH ST. *Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat.* **THE LAND OF THE FREE** with FLORENCE NASH

SHUBERT. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **MAYTIME**

BOOTH. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **POST IN THE MASQUERADE**

ASTOR. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE VERY IDEA**

MAXINE ELLIOTT'S. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THEY CALL ME MARJORIE**

GUY POST. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **DE LUXE ANNIE**

CASINO. *Evenings.* **FURS & FRILLS**

MOROSCO. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **JOSEPHINE BRUSSARDI, LTD.**

RAYMOND HITCHCOCK'S. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **MISS COWL**

BERNARD SHAW'S. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE COUNTRY COUSIN**

STANLEY HOLLOWAY'S. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **LEAVE IT TO JANE**

LONGACRE. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE ROOF**

PLAYHOUSE. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE RIVIERA GIRL**

PLYMOUTH. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE RUMBLE MIGHTY FROLIC**

COHEN. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE IRRESISTIBLE SCREAM**

PRINCESS. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE LAND OF JOY**

WICKEDLY. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE LAND OF JOY**

STANDARD. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE JANE COWL**

COHEN. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE 13TH CHAIR**

RAYMOND HITCHCOCK'S. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE LAND OF JOY**

CORT. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE LAND OF JOY**

MOTHER CAREY'S CHICKENS. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE LAND OF JOY**

WILLIAM FOX PRESENTS. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE LAND OF JOY**

LYRIC. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE LAND OF JOY**

ALL SEATS RESERVED. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE LAND OF JOY**

MANHATTAN OPERA HOUSE. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE LAND OF JOY**

SOLO MGT. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE LAND OF JOY**

TO-NIGHT. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE LAND OF JOY**

POSITIVELY AT 8 SHARP. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE LAND OF JOY**

ONE MORE. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE LAND OF JOY**

FIRST PERFORMANCE IN AMERICA. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE LAND OF JOY**

WILLIAM ELLIOTT, F. RAY COXSTOCK & MORRIS GEST. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE LAND OF JOY**

NOW IN ITS SECOND YEAR IN LONDON. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE LAND OF JOY**

TICKETS DATED OCT. 15 GOOD TO-NIGHT! *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE LAND OF JOY**

FIRST BARGAIN MAT. WED., 25¢ to \$1. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE LAND OF JOY**

CHU CHIN CHOW. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE LAND OF JOY**

A MUSICAL TALE OF THE EAST. *Mon., Wed., Sat.* **THE LAND OF JOY**

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STRAND THEATRE. *Mon., Wed*